

SUMMARY

From October 2021 through June 2023, Somalia has been impacted by a drought of unprecedented scale, further deteriorating food security and livelihoods. Nutritional needs remain extremely high. More than 1.8 million people are malnourished, with nearly 478,000 children likely suffering from severe acute malnutrition.

The past three years of severe drought left soil parched. Rainfall led to flash floods that displaced 1.2 million people from their homes near the end of 2023, worsening an already fragile state. Armed conflicts and instability exacerbate the drought’s complexity and severity.

Working to meet dire needs

In the midst of climate and conflict crises, World Vision has reached 1.4 million people in dangerous and hard-to-reach areas since the start of FY23. We have delivered emergency health and nutrition services, monitored nutrition levels and made referrals, provided health education,

constructed latrines, trucked water to 1,600 households, repaired water systems, rehabilitated shallow wells, installed solar pumps, and given multipurpose cash assistance.

Expanding our response


World Vision is expanding into some of the areas considered hardest to reach due to security concerns, where needs are most urgent. These include the Jowhar and Elberde districts in southwest and south-central Somalia, where the Al-Shabaab militant group has a higher presence. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reported that 474,000 people were displaced by conflict in Somalia in 2023. Their vulnerability increases as food insecurity rises.


World Vision’s efforts have been possible through \$1.3 million in private funding that helps expand our geographic reach and position us well for \$67 million in public funding for our emergency response in Somalia.




A woman receives personal hygiene items during a World Vision distribution to 800 households in the Doolow district of Somalia, where people have limited access to clean water. Our work in the district seeks to improve personal hygiene practices, reduce the risk of waterborne diseases, and enhance overall living conditions.

PROGRESS ON CORE ACTIVITIES IN FY23

 **1.4 MILLION** Somalis reached with drought interventions, including food assistance, agricultural activities, water deliveries, and water system rehabilitations.

 **57,224** people in the high-risk Jowhar and Elberde districts received food assistance, nutrition screenings, and health trainings and services.

 **8,400** people without access to clean water received water delivered by truck.

CHALLENGES AND STRATEGY

After the fifth-consecutive failed rainy season, the El Niño weather phenomenon brought historic flooding shortly after the end of FY23. Displacement due to climate and conflict has endangered an already-fragile state. Toward the end of 2023, 4.3 million people faced hunger that reached crisis levels, or worse.

In Jowhar, few humanitarian organizations remain with operating budgets sufficient to continue their work. World Vision's private funding enables us to serve, through local partners, the most severely impacted districts in Jowhar's outskirts.

More financing is required to strengthen livelihoods, build resilience, develop infrastructure, and adapt to climate changes to help participants fully recover.

U.S. government funding for FY24 is expected to be slashed by as much as 40%, threatening to slow the progress World Vision has made in Somalia. We plan to use funding as strategically as possible, placing us in the best position to leverage funding provided by private donors.

Jowhar and Elberde are strategic districts for expanding our operations because of their high needs and our access to the area. By serving residents with recovery and development programming, we can help residents not have to leave home to seek humanitarian aid in another district.

PLANS FOR THE COMING MONTHS

Our mission in Somalia is to expand into areas with the greatest needs—needs largely unmet because the environment is highly dangerous. That includes areas recently liberated from Al-Shabaab, as well as regions more prone to climate-related disasters. Growing our footprint in places hard to reach will position us for the difficult work ahead.

We are conducting feasibility studies to determine the security risks of expanding into areas of Somalia that remain hubs for Al-Shabaab activity. These areas often lack the presence of international nongovernmental organizations, leaving dire needs among the population that cannot be met by typical relief services.

THANK YOU

Thank you for partnering with World Vision to serve Somali children and families and raise awareness of their pressing needs. Your support makes difficult work possible and helps to protect lives, change futures, and bring hope to people in the hardest-to-reach places.



A woman in Jowhar district fills a jug at a new communal water point constructed by Somali Relief and Development Action (SRDA), a key World Vision partner, with funding from private donors. SRDA replaced a hand pump with an elevated, solar water-pumping system, and promoted hygiene activities. In Jowhar, most nongovernmental organizations have reported significant budget deficits. Private funding from World Vision leverages impact by enabling us to serve, through partners like SRDA, areas of high need in the outskirts of Jowhar.